

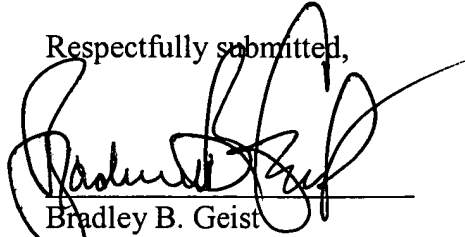
REMARKS

Applicant has amended pending claims 2-5, 7-15 such that it is believed that all grounds for objection raised in the Advisory Action dated December 9, 2002 have been rendered moot. All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5, 8 and 12-15 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment. Nevertheless, Applicant files herewith a conditional "Request for Continued Examination" in the event the Examiner is unwilling to allow all of the pending claims, i.e. 2-5, 8 and 10-15.

Specifically, claim 3 has been amended to correct the improper syntax. Claim 6, which was objected to on the basis that it related to a process for making the claimed apparatus (see the Official Action dated July 17, 2003) has been cancelled, without prejudice to filing a continuation application for prosecution of said alleged process claim. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite structural elements in order to overcome the objection to said claims, i.e. that they merely recite how the claimed structure is intended to be operated during the intended use of the apparatus raised at item 2 on page 2 of the Official Action dated July 17, 2003. Finally claim 12 has been amended to conform to the disclosure in the specification and to incorporate by way of a Markush group the various positions at which the piezoelectric actuators may be located. Claim 9, which was objected to in the present Advisory Action "as not further limiting the subject matter of claim 12", has now been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by any of the amendments.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests favorable action on the merits, and if such action is accorded the application, then a refund of the fee submitted herewith in connection with the conditional RCE.

Respectfully submitted,



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